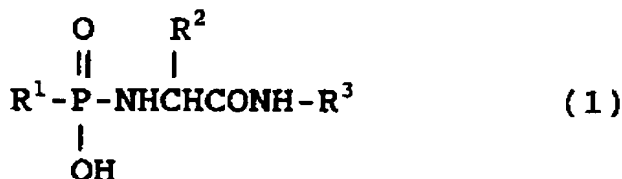


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6-11 are now active in this application, claim 12 having been cancelled by the present amendment. Claim 6 has been amended to specify that the neutral endopeptidase inhibitor of the claims is a compound having a structure of Formula (1)



This amendment is supported by the specification at page 5, lines 6-18. The specification has also been amended as requested by the Examiner to reflect that the application is a Continuation application rather than a Divisional application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Ahluwalia or Styczynski.

Ahluwalia discloses at column 1, lines 36-50, various inhibitors of adenylosuccinate synthetase, including various phospho group containing compounds such as riboside phosphates, guanosine monophosphate and phosphonacetyl aspartic acid and phosphonoacetyl carboxylic acids. However, none of the compounds listed or suggested by Ahluwalia meet the requirements of the present claims, namely none of the compounds are a compound of Figure (1) as required by the claims.

As such, Ahluwalia cannot anticipate the present invention. Additionally, since none of the compounds disclosed by Ahluwalia would suggest the particular phosphonic acid compounds of Formula (1) of the present invention, Ahluwalia cannot render the present invention obvious. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Styczynski discloses the use of various matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibitors in the reduction of hair growth. The patent lists various compounds at column 2, lines 26-59 as

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examples of their MMP inhibitor. However, a review of these various compounds shows that none of them appear to fall within the presently claimed compounds of Formula (1).

Additionally, none of these MMP inhibitors of Styczynski would appear to suggest the particular compounds of Formula (1) of the present claims. As such, Styczynski cannot anticipate nor render obvious the present invention as now claimed, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection for obviousness type double patenting, Applicants provide herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over US Patent 6,747,017.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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